
ANNUAL REPORT
on the
ENVIRONMENT
2005



Fairfax County, Virginia
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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INTRODUCTION

This year's Annual Report on the Environment has been prepared by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC). Staff support for the coordination and printing of the Report has been provided by the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

The Annual Report on the Environment, which is an update on the state of the County's environment, serves a threefold purpose. Initially, it is intended to assist the Board of Supervisors in evaluating ongoing environmental programs and to provide the basis for proposing new programs. The document also aids public agencies in coordinating programs to jointly address environmental issues. In addition, the report is directed to citizens who are concerned with environmental issues.

The Report contains chapters on major environmental topics including: land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light, and visual pollution. Within each chapter are: a discussion of environmental issues; a summary of relevant data; and a discussion of applicable government programs. Where relevant, discussions of legislative issues are provided. Most of the chapters conclude with recommendations that identify additional actions that EQAC believes are necessary to address environmental issues.

This report covers activities affecting the environment in 2004; however, in some cases, key activities from 2005 are also included.

While the Environmental Quality Advisory Council has prepared and is responsible for this Report, contributions were made by numerous organizations. Many of the summaries provided within this report were taken verbatim from materials provided by these organizations. EQAC therefore extends its appreciation to the following organizations:

Audubon Naturalist Society
Clean Fairfax Council, Inc.
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Fairfax County Deer Management Committee
Fairfax County Department of Health
Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Fairfax County Executive's Office
Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
Fairfax County Non-Motorized Transportation (Trails) Committee
Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County Police Department, Division of Animal Services
Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee
Fairfax ReLeaf
Fairfax Water
Federal Aviation Administration
George Mason University, Departments of Biology and Environmental Science
and Policy
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
International Dark-Sky Association

Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
McLean Conservancy
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
National Park Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Potomac Conservancy
Reston Association
The Nature Conservancy
United States Army Corps of Engineers
United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
United States Geological Survey
Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Transportation
Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

In addition, EQAC wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the County's interagency Environmental Coordinating Committee, which coordinated the staff responses to the recommendations within EQAC's 2004 *Annual Report on the Environment*.



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

December 5, 2005

Chairman Connolly and Members of the Board:

EQAC is pleased to present the 2005 Annual Report on the Environment. In this report, we discuss various environmental issues in Fairfax County and make recommendations as to what actions the county should take to resolve identified problems. The Report consists of eight chapters – each chapter addressing a different aspect of the environment. Again this year the chapters are rearranged to reflect the order of topics listed in the newly adopted environmental vision for Fairfax County.

EQAC thanks the Board for adoption of the *Environmental Excellence for Fairfax: A 20-Year Vision* last year and is especially pleased with the follow-up implementation plan *Fiscal 2007 Environmental Improvement Program*.

We find that every year, Fairfax County's programs continue to improve and advance in their efforts at environmental stewardship.

Since the late 1990s, the county has engaged in a progressive and systematic approach to assessing the health of our streams and then moved forward with watershed protection and restoration efforts. The ongoing citizen-based watershed planning efforts for all the streams in Fairfax County are the most recent examples of this program. We want to thank you specifically for the additional funding for Stormwater and Watershed Planning Implementation this last year.

We would also like to thank you for the funding in the amount of \$2.0 million that you provided to support the Environmental Agenda as part of the FY 2004 Carryover Review. This funding supported a range of projects, which have been completed or in the final stage of completion.

We also thank you for the additional \$500,000 that you provided at the FY 2005 Carryover Review to be used for the implementation of critical non-stormwater environmental projects that support the Environmental Agenda. We recognize that the \$2.5 million is in addition to the \$17.9 million that the Board dedicated for

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Board of Supervisors
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stormwater projects as part of the FY 2006 budget. These funds represent a significant deposit on a long-standing environmental debt in the county.

We again commend the Board for moving forward with a comprehensive agenda for the county on clean air and for adding the position of Air Quality Program Manager back into the budget. We thank you for leading the region in air quality programs by purchasing wind energy, doing diesel retrofits for county connector buses and school buses, for the purchase of hybrid automobiles for county fleets, and for actively promoting the county's telework program.

In addition, the county has passed an outstanding lighting ordinance in recent years that protects the night sky and neighborhoods, and has been working to create guidelines for the county in natural landscaping.

But rather than focusing on a few specific recommendations in this year's report we would like to make some comments on the county's environmental programs as a whole.

All of the above mentioned efforts are important pieces of managing a very large and challenging whole, Fairfax County's environmental legacy. In the light of the Environmental *Vision* document and subsequent *Improvement Program* we ask that the Board also change focus from the discrete programs to the overall picture of the county's environmental management. In the light of the county approaching build-out, we ask that you look at the integration of the programs and potential for maximizing efforts. Have we created an adequate green infrastructure plan that looks at connecting the thin green lines, the parks and Environmental Quality Corridors in a way that maximizes our efforts at protection? Have we looked at the gray infrastructure (parking lots and other paved impervious surface) in terms of re-use, reducing auto reliance, and sharing parking? Have we an integrated plan for the county in terms of building and transportation that not only focuses on transit but also focuses on increasing pedestrian friendly environments? A recent presentation from a consultant at a meeting of the Tysons Coordinating Committee suggested that if we build our transportation systems oriented towards pedestrians, everything else will fall in to place. EQAC continues to support transit-oriented development (TOD). We note that most citizen opposition to TOD is based on the resulting increase in vehicle traffic that occurs and the impact on adjacent neighborhoods because of that traffic. We urge the county to seek new and innovative solutions.

To that end we would like to focus on the one specific recommendation in the report. We know that the county has formed a committee, in which EQAC has been asked to participate, to begin looking at the replacement of the County's rather old information system UDIS. We urge you to purchase for the county a highly flexible database that will allow the county to do innovative design and management for all the county's resources. A good system would go a long way towards helping the county integrate environmental management with land use and transportation planning in a meaningful way.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

In addition, each chapter of this year's Annual Report contains the remainder of our recommendations. We urge you to consider and act on each of these.

This report covers 2004, but also includes significant actions from 2005 that could impact EQAC's comments and recommendations. We recognize that the report does not capture all ongoing actions; if we tried to accomplish this, the report would never be finished.

As previous reports have done, we would like to commend the outstanding efforts of some groups whose actions improve and safeguard the environment in Fairfax County. The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) continues to provide excellent education programs, to consult with the county on innovative stream restoration work, to have a large and successful stream monitoring program, and to be available to citizens and developers alike for site work consultation. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) continues to obtain easements on privately owned environmentally sensitive land. Volunteers from the Audubon Naturalist Society provide valuable data on water quality. Fairfax ReLeaf continues to promote tree preservation and tree replacement programs. The Park Authority staff continues to have a few people, working with a very small budget, who are slowly enhancing environmental efforts in the county's parks. The members of EQAC thank all these groups, and all others who work to preserve and enhance the environment of the county.

EQAC would also like to thank and commend the county staff for its continued outstanding work. We thank staff especially for providing the data for this report and for a continued willingness to meet with EQAC to discuss various issues. We commend the county's Environmental Coordinating Committee, which is Chaired by Deputy County Executive Robert A. Stalzer, for its continued efforts at managing environmental action within the county. We appreciate the ECC's willingness to meet with EQAC twice a year and to discuss issues of environmental significance.

EQAC would especially like to thank and acknowledge two individuals. Every year we do this and every year the members of Council continue to be impressed with the work and input of these two people. First, we need to mention Noel Kaplan of the Environment and Development Review Branch, Department of Planning and Zoning. Noel provides county staff support to EQAC. Noel sets up and tapes every EQAC meeting, follows up on actions generated from the meetings, and coordinates the inputs and publication of the Annual Report. Although the members of EQAC write the Annual Report, it is Noel who makes publication of the document possible. EQAC cannot thank him enough for his hard work and long hours in our support.

Second, we thank Kambiz Agazi, Environmental Coordinator, Office of the County Executive, who also attends all our meetings and provides advice and suggestions. His insight and his overview of county environmental activities are invaluable to our work. EQAC thanks him for his assistance and valuable contributions.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

In conclusion, EQAC encourages the Board of Supervisors to both support and fully fund all of the valuable programs designed to protect the county's environment and enhance the quality of life for its citizens. We urge you to take a look at how to integrate these excellent programs to maximize your efforts and returns.

The members of EQAC thank the Board of Supervisors for its leadership and look forward to continue working with you to achieve the goals of the Environmental Excellence Vision for Fairfax County in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stella M. Koch". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Stella M. Koch, Chairman
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

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SCORECARD

Progress Report on 2004 Recommendations

I. LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Land Use & Transportation Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1a. EQAC recommends that the County produce an updated version of the <u>State of the Plan</u> report to reflect current population shifts, build-out, and infill developments.	Staff will evaluate all Comprehensive Plan amendments that occurred between 1995 and 2003 to analyze how the County's build-out potential has been affected. The analysis will be available in late 2005 and will incorporate amendments associated with the 2004 North County Area Plans Review.	EQAC still believes that a single document addressing the entirety of the County will be valuable in planning.	No.
1b. EQAC recommends that the county continue to pursue replacing or upgrading the UDIS System.	Different agencies are handling different aspects of this recommendation. Staff concurs that UDIS is not able to fulfill its purpose of tracking and linking land use information. Staff has suggested that a formal stakeholders team be established to determine the feasibility of, and an approach to, linking data from various county systems as well as looking at the possibility of new systems to address needs not currently addressed by UDIS.	EQAC supports this suggestion of a stakeholder's team to identify ways to better incorporate countywide land records and land use information in an enterprise system accessible to all county staff.	No.
1c. EQAC recommends that the BOS and DPZ continue to consider land use and transportation together when revising the Comprehensive Plan. Air quality, congestion, commuting patterns, and health effects should also be addressed.	Currently, Plan amendments address transportation and land use at a micro scale rather than a macro scale. The Department of Transportation is conducting a comprehensive review of the County's Transportation Plan that will evaluate future transportation and land use needs at a macro scale. Air Quality is handled at a regional level and will not be addressed through the Transportation Plan.	EQAC reiterates its recommendation.	No.

Land Use & Transportation Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1d. EQAC recommends that the BOS consider mixed-use principles when locating future public facilities, such as libraries and recreation centers, so that they are within walking/biking distance of major population centers.	The Public Facilities Section of the Policy Plan contains policies and locational standards that encourage many public uses to be accessible, conveniently located, and in support of community identity. Staff will continue to look for opportunities in the planning and development review process to incorporate mixed-use principles when locating public facilities.	EQAC encourages staff to continue to promote mixed-use principles within the CIP.	In process.
2a. EQAC encourages the BOS to continue to aggressively support telecommuting among county staff.	The BOS has continued to endorse the COG goal of 20% of the area's eligible workforce telecommuting by 2005. The County has set a goal of 1,000 workers telecommuting by 2005 and has reached over 800 telecommuting workers in December 2004. Staff feels that the goal of 20% is an aggressive goal.	EQAC agrees that 20% is an aggressive goal and commends the continued efforts to increase telecommuting among its staff.	Yes.
2b. EQAC recommends that the BOS maintain its leadership role in improving the environment through greater use of teleworking by establishing a program directed at encouraging employers in the county to adopt or expand telework opportunities.	Through the Employer Services Program, the county assists employers to find transportation solutions, including teleworking.	Fairfax County has established a leadership role in teleworking and should continue this role through an aggressive campaign to encourage greater use of teleworking as a transportation solution.	Partial.

Land Use & Transportation Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
2c. EQAC recommends that the BOS work with the Federal government to encourage an increase in teleworking. EQAC also recommends that the county work with the Virginia Congressional Delegation to secure resources to establish teleworking sites within the county.	The County is an active partner with members of its state and federal delegations working to secure funding for teleworking initiatives.	EQAC encourages the continuation of seeking increased funding and support for teleworking.	In process.
3a. EQAC recommends that the BOS continue to provide annual funding for the Non-Motorized Transportation (Trails) Committee.	In the past, the Board has provided funding by magisterial district for trail projects; funding has been limited due to budget restrictions. In November, 2004, County voters approved a \$165 million General Obligation Bond Referendum as part of the Board's four-year Transportation Plan. Of the \$165 million, \$10.8 million was designated to fund pedestrian improvements such as sidewalks and trails. Additionally, \$2.5 million was appropriated as part of the FY 2005 Budget for streetlight, drainage, sidewalk, trail, and walkway projects, \$676,000 of which was earmarked for sidewalk and trail construction. Currently, both the Non-Motorized Transportation (Trails) Committee and the Pedestrian Task Force are developing lists of priority projects.	EQAC recommends that trail projects continue to be funded.	In process.
3b. EQAC recommends that transit improvement modeling and dynamic attributes (HOT lanes) be addressed in the 2004 Transportation Plan update.	The Transportation Plan update is in progress, but incorporating transit modeling and HOT lanes is a very sophisticated effort and is not being addressed in the Plan update. If modeling were to be done in the future, additional funding would be required.	EQAC recommends seeking additional funding in order to produce transit & HOT lane modeling.	No.

Land Use & Transportation Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3c. EQAC recommends that the county focus on improving transit utilization through a systematic plan that focuses on multiple transit options within a community.	This recommendation is being addressed on an ongoing basis. The BOS has directed the Department of Transportation to initiate several projects addressing multi-modal transportation solutions.	EQAC reiterates its recommendation. Because transit planning is done on an ongoing basis, multi-modal transportation solutions should continue to be considered in the planning process in the future.	In process.
3d. EQAC recommends that the BOS instruct the Health Department and Public Affairs Office to produce and disseminate brochure(s) explaining the interrelationship between commuter choices and public health.	Air quality outreach efforts are underway for FY 2005, including making the Clean Air Partners brochure widely available, distribution of a child-friendly brochure about ground level ozone (through FCPS), and implementing a ground level ozone awareness program for county employees.	EQAC encourages the continuation of public outreach and education efforts, but would like to see the relationship between transit choices and public health explained.	No.
3e. EQAC recommends that the BOS encourage the state police to fully enforce HOV restrictions and to increase the penalty for HOV violations. EQAC recommends that the fine for a second HOV offense increase to \$500, with 50% of the fine returned to the respective county.	Based on existing staffing, it would be difficult for the state police to more fully enforce HOV violations, short of using some type of photo enforcement. Increased staffing dedicated to this mission would be needed in order to meet this recommendation.	EQAC reiterates its recommendation.	No.

II. AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends full funding for staff in the Health Department supporting air quality management activities in the county. EQAC also recommends that the air quality-monitoring network be maintained.	The county has established an Air Quality Program Manager position in the Health Department to oversee the management and implementation of the county's Air Quality Management Program, to include monitoring and data analysis. Currently, the Air Quality Program consists of one Program Manager, one Data Analyst and three Monitoring Specialists.	EQAC is pleased that our recommendation has been acted upon in this vital area of air quality.	Yes.
2. EQAC continues to be concerned about coordination and integration of critical analysis and conclusions about air quality management in the County. EQAC recommends close coordination and communication between EQAC and the County.	The recommendation is being addressed. The county is strengthening its air quality planning and management capability through the establishment of an Air Quality Program Manager position. The staff agrees with and fully supports EQAC's recommendation to continue and intensify close coordination. Coordination and communication between EQAC and county staff have advanced significantly over the last three years.	EQAC is pleased with progress to date, and urges that coordination and communication continue to be improved.	Solid progress. Need to continue the trend.
3. EQAC is pleased with the work of the county's Air Quality Subcommittee that included a variety of air quality management strategies as shown in the interim report and Clean Air Café menu. EQAC recommends that the Board adopt and implement the recommendations shown in the menu and report.	Several of the key recommendations, including wind energy purchase, education and outreach, pedestrian improvements, expanding metrocheck, clean fueled public transportation vehicles, low emission diesel school bus retrofits, hybrid vehicle purchases, and air quality monitoring equipment replacement were funded by FY 2003 and FY 2004 carry-over funds and have been or are in the process of being implemented. The remaining program recommendations and emission reduction measures will be funded and implemented in phases. The prioritization of the program recommendations and emission reduction measures will be based on the immediacy of the issue and the nature and cost-effectiveness of the emission reduction measure.	Good progress. The remainder of the recommendations in the Clean Air Café menu need to be addressed.	Significant progress – needs to continue.

III. WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC cannot over-emphasize and support the importance of creating a Stormwater Environmental Utility Fee Program for funding of the county's watershed protection and restoration needs. The Stormwater Environmental Utility Fee program is essential to carrying out the recommendations of the Comprehensive Watershed Plans being created throughout the county.</p>	<p>Fairfax County hired the consulting firm AMEC, which developed a Watershed Community Needs Assessment and Funding Options Study to address the strategies for developing a comprehensive stormwater management program and a dedicated funding mechanism to support it. In addition to the study, AMEC facilitated a series of meetings for a Board of Supervisors-appointed committee, the Stormwater Advisory Committee, of residents who have reviewed the level and extent of service of the current stormwater management program and possible funding sources. The Committee met for several months and presented their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. In the FY 2006 budget, the Board of Supervisors dedicated one penny of the real estate tax rate (\$17.9 million) to the county's stormwater management program.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that the recommendation is in the process of being addressed. EQAC is also pleased that the Board of Supervisors approved the one penny of the real estate tax to be dedicated to the stormwater management program. However, this is not adequate. A long-term, sustainable funding source is necessary to carry out the recommendations in all of the watershed management plans and to significantly improve the stormwater management program.</p>	<p>In progress, with more to be done.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
2. EQAC recommends that increased emphasis be placed on monitoring and enforcement of predevelopment stormwater management controls and the re-examination of “adequate outfall” requirements.	Staff agrees with this recommendation and it is in the process of being addressed. Staff is collaborating with members of industry to develop recommendations to address the increase in stormwater runoff from development sites during the development of the site and enhancing the minimum standards for erosion and sediment control on larger-scale developments to better protect downstream properties from runoff. A committee of private sector engineers will examine the county’s definition and requirements pertaining to adequate outfall. Following these efforts, policy clarifications and/or amendments to the Public Facilities Manual will be processed for consideration by the Board. However, at this time there have been no changes to the Public Facilities Manual that, with the exception of adequate outfall requirements, does not specify the minimum standards of detention pertaining to volume and velocity that must be provided during construction.	EQAC recommends that increased emphasis be placed on monitoring and enforcement of predevelopment stormwater management controls and re-examination of "adequate outfall" requirements. The response indicates that staff is collaborating with industry to address increase stormwater runoff from development sites, enhancing the minimum standards for erosion and sediment control on larger scale developments, and changing the adequate outfall requirements to increase their effectiveness. We want to see follow-up on a firm time line to indicate when these new changes will be implemented. Until then, citizens continue to be faced with inadequate protections.	No.

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. EQAC strongly recommends that Fairfax County continue to develop methodology that incorporates into their land use considerations a protocol that would assist them on the individual and cumulative effect of such decisions on the county's waterways.</p>	<p>Staff concurs with EQAC's recommendation. This recommendation continues to be addressed at the watershed scale and the project specific scale. Key actions include watershed management planning, strengthening of stormwater management submission requirements for zoning applications, and better interagency coordination and technical support during the zoning process. Fairfax County is working on developing specific low impact development (LID) techniques that can be incorporated into the Public Facilities Manual. The Fairfax County Park Authority has been exploring ways to incorporate LID practices in county parks.</p>	<p>EQAC is pleased that the recommendation continues to be addressed and worked on. The recommendation is on the way to being satisfied if the county continues with its current activities, although much more needs to be done with regard to funding and implementation. EQAC notes that land use planning is the single most effective tool for the protection of water resources.</p>	<p>In progress, with more to be done.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>4. EQAC continues to strongly support the full funding and implementation of the comprehensive countywide watershed management program.</p> <p>5. EQAC recommends the creation of a watershed protection and restoration program. The program should devote equal importance to environmental protection, restoration, and monitoring as compared to infrastructure improvement and maintenance. The program should also establish a Watershed Board to oversee the program. Also, the program should encourage and approve bioretention and recharge to aquatic systems and other innovative practices.</p>	<p>This recommendation is in the process of being addressed. A major aspect of this initiative is being pursued through the watershed planning effort and comprehensive stream monitoring program. Changes to the level of service to inspect and maintain the county's BMPs are being discussed through a Board of Supervisor's appointed Stormwater Advisory Committee. Watershed planning efforts include the review of data from the completed 2001 Stream Protection Strategy Baseline Study, the 2003 Stream Physical Assessment, and annual water quality reports from the county Health Department. These data will be enhanced by the comprehensive stream monitoring program, which will include data from volunteer stream monitoring programs, probabilistic random stratified sampling, and wet and dry weather monitoring data (MS4 and VPDES permits).</p> <p>The Stormwater Planning Division reviews and provides recommendations to Land Development Services on detention waiver requests for development projects. Where feasible, LID practices are recommended. As watershed plans are completed, all detention waiver requests will be evaluated for conformance with the recommendations in the plans. With assistance from a private consultant, staff is developing recommendations to integrate LID practices into the PFM.</p>	<p>EQAC's recommendation is on the way to being satisfied – if the county continues with its current activities. EQAC continues to be concerned about dedicated, long-term funding and staffing needs to implement recommendations in the countywide watershed management plans. Additionally, it is important that there is adequate funding for environmental protection and restoration projects compared to just retrofitting and maintenance initiatives. LID techniques and other ecologically innovative practices should be incorporated into the PFM as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>In progress, with more to be done.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>6. EQAC continues to recommend posting of county streams with a health warning for fecal coliform bacteria until such time that the county conducts a study as to the source of microbiological threats. EQAC recommends that the county initiate such a study within 12 months and subsequently implement a plan to address the sources of actual threats to public health.</p>	<p>Staff agrees that posting of streams is a viable form of notification of impaired waters and potential health hazards. However, staff feels a strategic outreach plan should be explored to conserve resources and effectiveness. In 2003, E. coli concentrations were monitored in addition to fecal coliform. Measuring E. coli will allow the county to better judge the level of water quality impairment and associated health risks. USEPA staff trained county staff on the use of optical brighteners to identify illicit wastewater discharges into the storm drainage network.</p>	<p>EQAC agrees that a strategic outreach plan that identifies highly visible access areas would be more resource efficient. However, EQAC still feels that posting warning signs is an effective and assertive way to disseminate information about problems with contamination in county waterways. The majority of the county's residents remain unaware of the problems with coliform bacteria. EQAC continues to recommend that the county's streams be posted if testing shows contamination. Selective posting could be done at highly visible areas recognized in the outreach plan.</p>	<p>No.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
7. EQAC recommends a pilot program of monitoring or study on the effectiveness of stormwater detention facilities.	This recommendation continues to be partially addressed. Staff feels that, while a comprehensive countywide program to monitor the effectiveness of stormwater management ponds and BMPs would be desirable, it would be cost prohibitive. The Kingstowne Environmental Monitoring Program is used to evaluate the efficiencies of erosion and sediment controls installed in the Kingstowne development. A second monitoring station was installed to evaluate nutrient loading from the Silver Springs segment of the Dogue Creek watershed. The watershed planning process is currently identifying existing stormwater facilities that may require retrofitting to exceed performance criteria or standards that were used for the original design. Staff also oversees monitoring activities associated with ad hoc projects. Targeted biological monitoring of specific facilities and restoration sites is being considered. Current adequate outfall requirements are under review and preliminary recommendations have been provided to the Board of Supervisors and EQAC.	EQAC recommends that increased emphasis be placed on monitoring and enforcement of predevelopment stormwater management controls. EQAC agrees that a comprehensive program would be cost prohibitive, however, EQAC still recommends selective monitoring for determining the efficiencies of several different facilities. EQAC continues to endorse such a program.	No.

IV. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid Waste Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. The county should continue to work with the solid waste hauler community to increase curbside recycling to include multiuse paper and plastic in addition to the items already being collected for recycling.	The Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) for Fairfax County is in the process of implementing this EQAC recommendation. The new 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan for the county recommended the curbside source separation of certain recyclables for collection countywide. The recommendation was to expand the curbside collection of recyclables to include mixed paper, flattened cardboard, and plastic bottles and jugs. These materials would be source separated from trash at residences throughout Fairfax County for curbside collection and ultimate delivery to a recycling facility. The Recycling Program Requirements will be modified to include these additional recyclables as materials that must be recycled from residences in the county.	The new Solid Waste Management Program should increase amounts and types of recycling. This is in line with EQAC's recommendation.	In process.

Solid Waste Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2. The county should develop policies that change the recycling requirement for office buildings such that the requirement will apply to office buildings with more than 100 full time employees (FTEs)—the requirement now applies only to office buildings with more than 200 FTEs.</p> <p>3. The county should develop policies that change the recycling requirement for commercial business centers (CBCs, or strip malls) such that the requirement will apply to CBCs that generate more than 50 tons per year of solid waste—the requirement now applies only to CBCs that generate more than 100 tons per year.</p>	<p>The new 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan for the county recommended that additional businesses be required to recycle beyond those currently required to recycle. EQAC’s recommendation is consistent in concept with the SWMP; however, the thresholds eventually established may be greater or lower than suggested. Staff will be developing the new business recycling requirements in consultation with businesses in Fairfax County, and staff is currently working on the various aspects of that task.</p>	<p>Again, the new SWMP is in line with EQAC’s recommendations. EQAC suggests that the threshold be at least that of EQAC’s recommendations.</p>	<p>In process.</p>

V. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC continues to recommend an aggressive public education campaign on how to properly dispose of household/residential, commercial, and industrial hazardous waste. Continuous partnering with the Northern Virginia Board of Realtors and solid waste haulers to distribute information to all new residents in the county is suggested. New residents would be anybody buying or renting a house, townhouse, or condominium. Creative use of other organizations is also encouraged.</p>	<p>The recommendation contains two separate and distinct components: an outreach campaign for hazardous waste generated by residents (Household Hazardous Waste, HHW); and an outreach campaign for commercial and industrial hazardous waste. The county continues to work with the Government Affairs Committee for the N.V.A. Association of Realtors (NVAR). The county's flyer about proper handling of household hazardous waste was printed in its monthly magazine in March, 2004 for the first time and will be reprinted from time to time. NVAR will provide a link from its Web site to the County's Web site. The County's Office of Public Affairs includes information about HHW disposal the I-66 Transfer Station & the I-95 Complex in the monthly e-mail newsletter, "News to Use." Brochures & materials are available at County sponsored community events. Staff has undertaken an update of the county's solid waste management information on the Web site. Staff has requested assistance from haulers through the monthly newsletter and the Solid Waste Task Force. Staff has included a business hazardous waste management outreach component as one of the goals of the business recycling improvement program. Educating businesses has been undertaken through a newsletter, <i>Recycle Works</i> and the Fluorescent Lamp recycling program. The County held three Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) events in 2004 and plans three more in 2005. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce has agreed to help publicize these events.</p>	<p>EQAC recognizes outreach and educational efforts made by staff for hazardous materials disposal. These efforts have reached many people and businesses. Staff has worked with creative partnering to assist with this effort. All of the effort could be evaluated as accomplishing the recommendation. EQAC recognizes this fact, but strongly believes, with the growth in Fairfax County, that there are many more residents and businesses to reach, as well as to continuously remind those residents and businesses currently complying. These efforts, as well as new ideas, by the staff must be continuous each year.</p>	<p>Yes. Should always be in progress. Positive efforts have been, and are being, made. This effort needs to be consistent and ongoing.</p>

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2. The county should institute the recycling of NiCad batteries at the I-66 Transfer Station, the I-95 SW site, and other sites. With the growing popularity and use of rechargeable battery products, especially cell phones, EQAC recommends an aggressive program to promote recycling of NiCad batteries. Commercial efforts should continue and even expand. Schools and other organizations should be encouraged to come up with creative initiative to promote significant increases in recycling rechargeable batteries.</p>	<p>County staff continues to develop the rechargeable battery recycling program in conjunction with businesses and schools. Rechargeable batteries will continue to be collected from residents at the county's HHW facilities at the solid waste management complexes. The county encourages responsible management of all hazardous waste generated by businesses, including rechargeable batteries, and will accept these at the CESQG events. The county will continue to create partnerships with businesses to accomplish this. One partnership anticipated is promoting the use of the Rechargeable Batteries Recycling Corporation (RBRC) by businesses in the county. Staff will continue to strengthen its relationship with FCPS and other staff to get recycling information into the schools. Recycling Roadshows, a partnership with some schools, are recycling events conducted on school property using school volunteers. These events can be used to collect rechargeable batteries.</p>	<p>EQAC is optimistic about the initial steps taken by staff. The Recycling Roadshows partnership should be greatly expanded to reach all schools in Fairfax County. Through the schools, material and information can be taken into the homes. EQAC expects the NiCad battery issue to be a problem that, at best will remain at its current level, but most likely will become a larger problem in the years ahead.</p>	<p>Some progress, but more needs to be done.</p>

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3. Efforts to locate financing to cover the printing cost of Hazardous Waste and Environmental Crime Materials should continue as new sources of grants and funding may become available.	Opportunities for funding the Hazardous Waste and Environmental Crimes materials should be pursued through the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), where funds may be available. The Fire & Rescue Department is working to obtain financing to cover the cost of Hazardous Waste and Environmental Crimes Materials through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). These materials should be presented in at least a bi-lingual format. The funding needs to be available annually. The Stormwater Planning Division (SWPD) is willing to work collaboratively with other county agencies to develop outreach materials. SWPD believes that this would be a worthwhile effort as dumping of hazardous materials, including oil, paint, fertilizers, etc. into the storm drain network is one of the leading causes of limited recreational use of the county's waterways.	EQAC is cautiously optimistic that OEM indicates funds may be available and the SWPD is willing to collaborate. Maybe the Park Authority could be of assistance based on SWPD's comment. However, a definitive answer and plan were not indicated in the response.	No.

Hazardous Materials Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>4. EQAC recommends continuing to advertise and educate the public regarding the types of hazardous materials and other environmental situations citizens are requested to report, including whom they are to contact. Possible avenues are community association newsletters, press release stories to the media, and age appropriate material sent home through the schools.</p>	<p>The Fire & Rescue Department agrees with this recommendation and will continue to work through its Public Information Officer and the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) to advertise and education the public regarding the types of hazardous materials and other environmental situations citizens are requested to report. The Fire & Rescue Dept., OPA, and the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (FJLEPC) have worked together for many years to develop educational materials regarding reporting hazardous materials releases in the county. These groups continue to work together to develop avenues to disseminate information to citizens through the FJLEPC Web site and community events. However, limited funding is available to support the efforts of the FJLEPC to maintain its Web site. A high school student developed the current Web site as a community service project. Fire & Rescue does not have the staffing or resources to be able to support the FJLEPC in this endeavor. In addition, the funding necessary to develop, print, and market the programs/educational materials has not be identified.</p>	<p>While EQAC believes the response is accurate and complete, it is unsatisfactory. As the LEPC is an unfunded federal mandate, and that this is not completely detached from emergency preparedness, avenues for state and federal funds/grants could be explored. Perhaps a college student doing a service project or internship could assist with this.</p>	<p>No.</p>

VI. ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Ecological Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends that the County BOS develop and implement a Countywide Natural Resource Management Plan. Two tasks should be done first: complete a Countywide Baseline Natural Resource Inventory and adopt a unified Natural Resource Conservation Policy.	Staff concurs with EQAC's recommendation. A comprehensive survey and mapping of vegetation ecosystems that occur in Fairfax County support this recommendation. A Countywide Baseline Natural Resource Inventory survey is being conducted by the Urban Forest Management Branch of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services that can eventually take into account all terrestrial biotic resources, including flora and fauna existing on private and public properties. In addition, the Fairfax County Park Authority recently adopted a 2002-2006 Natural Resource Management Plan for Park Authority lands. The Stormwater Planning Division is coordinating the development of watershed plans the each of the County's watersheds.	This is a long-standing EQAC recommendation. EQAC notes that efforts are underway that support EQAC's recommendation. However, inadequate funding exists to implement the Natural Resource Management Plan. EQAC supports these efforts and reiterates its recommendation.	Improved progress, but more needs to be done.
2. EQAC recommends continued support for the public-private partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and further recommends the existing three-year agreement be extended.	Funding was appropriated to the NVCT for FY 05 for \$250,602. The Department of Planning and Zoning supports contributory agency status for NVCT. No further action is required. The Board of Supervisors will determine on a year-to-year basis the funding that can be allocated to NVCT.	EQAC commends the BOS for creating the original public-private partnership with NVCT. The BOS is funding NVCT past the term of the original three-year MOU. However, a new MOU was not put into place. EQAC supports a continuing partnership with NVCT, not a year-to-year program. Therefore, EQAC recommends that a multi-year MOU be accomplished.	Program funded, but no MOU.

Ecological Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. EQAC recommends that the BOS continue to support proposals to amend Virginia State Code §15.2-961, allowing the county to enact tree preservation ordinances.</p>	<p>Staff concurs that the county should continue to pursue new tree preservation legislation or amendments to existing Virginia State Code § 15.2-961 at the Virginia General Assembly. The 2005 Fairfax County Legislative Program contained two tree-related matters: a legislative position supporting HB1479, which is a proposal to amend § 15.2-961 so that the existing tree cover requirements place higher emphasis on tree preservation; and a proposed resolution concerning the use of tree preservation and planting measures in Virginia's air quality management plan. Unfortunately, HB1479 (tree preservation) died in the Counties, Cities, and Towns Committee. SJ343 (use of tree preservation and planting measures in Virginia's air quality management plan) died in the Rules Committee.</p>	<p>EQAC is extremely disappointed that the efforts to enact tree preservation ordinances have failed. EQAC continues to recommend that the BOS continue to pursue legislation that would allow a tree preservation ordinance.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>4. Fairfax County no longer has Soil Science expertise on the county staff. However, the BOS did provide funding to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) for mapping of the county's soils. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue the agreement with NVSWD to provide soil scientist expertise</p>	<p>The soil scientist position in the NVSWCD will be funded through June, 2007. Staff recommends that the expertise of the soil scientist is needed in the county, and that the soil scientist position should be extended beyond the completion of the soil survey update, due to be completed in January, 2007.</p>	<p>EQAC reiterates its recommendation.</p>	<p>No.</p>

VII-1. IMPACTS OF DEER IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue to implement and monitor the comprehensive deer management program as set forth in the November, 1998 Integrated Deer Management Plan and refined by the Deer Management Committee in the summer of 1999 and in subsequent meetings.	This recommendation continues to be addressed. The Fairfax County Park Authority continues to work with the County Wildlife Biologist to move toward the objectives stated in the Countywide Deer Management Program. Diligent efforts of Park Authority and Police Department staff have reduced the herd population in several parks to the point where previously bare forest floors are again covered in wildflowers and seedling trees and shrubs.	EQAC notes that actions taken to date continue to support EQAC's recommendation, and progress over last year can be seen. However, the results are a long way from restoring natural areas to the former levels of biodiversity. The changes noted in several parks are encouraging; however, actions to manage the deer population need to continue and to be increased.	In process.
2. EQAC strongly commends active participation of the Fairfax County Park Authority in the deer management program.	This recommendation continues to be addressed. The Park Authority continues to work within the guidelines of its Wildlife Conflict Resolution Policy to reduce and mitigate the impact of an overabundant white-tailed deer population. The agency is continually researching ways to minimize the effect the herd has on parks. Park staff work with the County Wildlife Biologist, his staff, and police officers to carry out herd reduction activities.	Results satisfactory in parks where program has been implemented; needs to be implemented in other parks that have not yet been included in the program.	In process.

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3. EQAC believes the deer management program must address problems of owners of small private properties.	The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (DGIF) will issue permits to property owners experiencing damage from any wildlife, but many citizens are not aware of this program. DGIF and Fairfax County have increased efforts to inform citizens of this program. Additionally, state code now allows an extended urban archery deer-hunting season. The County Deer Management Web page provides information about methods available to private property owners.	The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is planning more rules that will help accommodate the needs of impacted county residents. county staff should be prepared to update residents who contact the county with regard to deer problems and the new rules should be made available on the relevant section of the county Web site. The Animal Control Division of FCPD should examine the feasibility of a limited extension of the sharpshooter program to selected parcels of private property.	In process.
4. EQAC believes the management program must accomplish: (1) immediate, sustained reduction of deer population; (2) ongoing monitoring of availability of methods for maintaining population limits; (3) consideration of development and its effects on ecosystem health and biodiversity.	The deer management program continues to reduce local herds to levels consistent with long-term carrying capacity of remaining habitats. Managed hunts, sharpshooting, and private/public partnerships are combined to apply the necessary control pressure to first stabilize and then reduce deer herds. Fairfax County continues to monitor developments and progress of non-lethal methods of deer herd control. There are several strategies within the recently completed FCPA Natural Resource Management Plan that relate to wildlife conflict resolution, continued evaluation of forest habitat values, and the impacts of park and private development on the biodiversity and ecosystem health in the parks.	This recommendation continues to be very satisfactorily addressed.	In process.

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
5. EQAC strongly recommends the Board of Supervisors continue to provide for a vigorous and enhanced program of public education as is now being done by the Division of Animal Services and on the county Web site.	Educational efforts have been underway since the start of the Deer Management Program. Efforts include programs on Channel 16, publications available in the Fairfax County Library system, interactive displays at Celebrate Fairfax, and programs by the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist.	This recommendation continues to be very satisfactorily addressed.	Yes.
6. EQAC strongly endorses on-going public input into the Deer Management Plan.	The county Web page devoted to deer management issues continues to be updated and expanded. This site provides a wealth of information to citizens about the issue and the efforts being undertaken to deal with the associated problems. Citizens are able to send e-mail through this site to voice their opinions or to ask questions. Input is also received from citizens via telephone, e-mail, or conversations at meetings of special interest groups, civic associations, professional conferences, garden clubs, or other public gatherings.	This recommendation continues to be very satisfactorily addressed.	Yes.

VII-2. IMPACTS OF GEESE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Geese Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC finds the current programs are effective and should be continued.	The Animal Services concurs with EQAC's recommendation and intends to continue and expand the current programs. However, GeesePeace personnel notified the Animal Services Division that they would be unable to continue the program partnership with Fairfax County.	EQAC continues to support continuation and expansion of current efforts. Since termination of the partnership with GeesePeace, the BOS should ensure that adequate County funding is provided.	Yes.
2. EQAC feels that the current programs need to be replicated in many other areas of the county.	Efforts will be directed to expand the number of trained volunteers and of cooperating property owners.	This part of the program is being pursued at a level consistent with the funding available. Some additional resources will be needed to bring it to the desired level.	In process.
3. EQAC recommends enhanced public education outreach to sensitize Fairfax County residents to the pollution problems caused by geese and the programs available for addressing them.	The Animal Services Division will be working in cooperation with state and federal officials to gather data on the effects of resident goose populations upon local tidal marshlands in Fairfax County. This information will be provided to the public through existing methods. The Division has worked with Channel 16 to produce programming, which covers Canada geese, and the issues related to them.	This part of the program is being pursued at a level consistent with the funding available. Some additional resources will be needed to bring it to the desired level of outreach.	In process.
4. EQAC recommends enhanced public outreach to acquaint Fairfax County residents with the destructive role excessive goose populations play in our marshland habitats.	The Animal Services Division is presently developing a goose management program to replace the program formally known as GeesePeace. The Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist provides information about all available options and programs to property owners through telephone and e-mail contacts. A new Web site will be developed to better convey current information and available management options.	This part of the program is being pursued at a level consistent with the funding available. Use of various media to provide educational material to the public has been excellent. However, some additional resources may be needed to bring these activities to the desired level.	In process.

VII-3. WILDLIFE BORNE DISEASES OF CONCERN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Wildlife Borne Disease Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. EQAC recommends that the BOS provide continued active support to the reorganized Stream Monitoring Program in which the Stream Protection Strategies Program of the DPWES will perform sample collection and field testing and the Health Department will perform lab testing and analysis functions. EQAC recommends that the county staff ensure the posting of advisories on the county Web site when polluted waters are identified.	DPWES assumed the Health Department's role of collecting water quality samples in calendar year 2003. The Health Department laboratory will continue to process collected samples for fecal coliform and E. coli bacteria, in addition to phosphorous, nitrate, and nitrite levels. This recommendation, as it related to posting advisories to the county's Web sites, is in the process of being addressed. Web pages are currently being developed for posting advisories, reporting annual results, and providing educational information. The county's comprehensive biological stream monitoring report will also be available for download from the county's Web site. News releases for local and regional newspapers on information related to the annual report and county staff will prepare stream advisories.	The reorganized stream monitoring program appears to be working well and more efficiently than before. The Web page listing monitoring data is not yet online but is in development and should be available some time in the summer.	In process.
2. The Health Department should continue and enhance its excellent public education programs.	This recommendation is in the process of being implemented and is being enhanced as EQAC has recommended. The Health Department has translated some of its more essential West Nile Virus public education material into Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Basic Chinese and has evaluated the impact of this program with a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) study that was concluded prior to FY 2005. The KAP study is allowing the Health Department to better direct the West Nile Virus public education and information program.	This recommendation is being very satisfactorily addressed.	Yes.

Wildlife Borne Disease Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
3. The Police Department should continue its animal control program and, in conjunction with the Health Department, expand public education initiatives in key areas such as rabies and wildlife contributions to pollution of surface waters.	The Animal Services Division routinely provides the public with information on rabies and other wildlife borne diseases. Rabies is addressed on the Animal Services Web page. Both the Health Department and the Animal Services Division participate in the Animal Control Regional Roundtable. This is a group compiled of representatives from the animal control departments and health departments of various jurisdictions throughout the region. This group has chosen to expand the topics of discussion beyond rabies to include all wildlife diseases.	This recommendation is being very satisfactorily addressed.	Yes.
4. EQAC recommends that the BOS provide active support to the newly instituted program for epidemiology and abatement of insect vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and malaria. EQAC also recommends that the BOS monitor this program.	This recommendation is being addressed. The BOS has provided, and continues providing, support for the newly instituted program for epidemiology and abatement of insect vector-borne diseases. The Health Department provided periodic reports on the program and the Health Department periodically informs the BOS in more direct manners.	This program appears to be progressing satisfactorily. One very important caveat should be noted: great caution should be exercised in using larvicides in storm drains as the effluent from these drains goes directly into our streams and can be lethal to many of the macro-invertebrates that live therein.	Yes.

VIII-1. NOISE

Noise Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. Continue to support airport noise compatible land use planning near airports in the county through the implementation of policies and regulations that reference the most current airport noise contour projections for the airports and that are at least as stringent as federal noise compatibility guidelines.	This recommendation has been addressed and will need to be revisited whenever updated airport noise projection information becomes available.	The recommendation has been addressed.	Yes.
2. Develop and distribute materials to educate the public on airport noise issues. Incorporate these educational materials into the county's overall environmental educational efforts.	This recommendation has not been addressed and is not in progress. Pursuit of EQAC's recommended educational efforts would be desirable but would need to be considered in terms of overall resources available for this and other demands on staff resources. It will not be possible to develop a public information campaign in a time frame that would result in dissemination of this information in advance of the end of the public comment period for the proposed construction of new runways at Dulles Airport.	EQAC continues to recommend a public education program.	No.
3. Support the addition of new runways at Washington Dulles International Airport as long as aircraft operations at the airport associated with this increased operational capacity do not result in overall net increases in noise exposures to residents of Fairfax County when compared with operations that would occur using existing runways.	This recommendation has been addressed. Staff has suggested, in its comments to FAA, the need for further coordination and clarification regarding a number of issues. It is likely that these issues will be discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and staff will review this document once it is issued (anticipated later in 2005)	EQAC agrees with the staff approach.	In process.

Noise Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
4. Encourage the use of opportunities provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) that allow for third party contributions to noise barrier construction when the VDOT cost criteria preclude VDOT's construction of such barriers.	VDOT adopted a Noise Abatement Policy based upon Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations. The State Noise Abatement Policy (SNAP) provides opportunity for third party funding when the cost of a noise abatement measure exceeds VDOT's cost effectiveness ceiling but the measure otherwise satisfies the criteria contained in this policy.	Fairfax County should continue to use its proffer authority with developers to provide noise abatement measures and/or funding mechanisms to provide noise abatement measures consistent with VDOT noise abatement specifications. Fairfax County should also continue to coordinate with VDOT to determine where sound walls are already planned as part of a VDOT road construction project, which may offset abatement costs for the developer and/or VDOT.	In process.

Noise Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
5. Encourage the retention and planting of noninvasive vegetation to provide visual shielding of residents from highways. Where possible, support the provision of vegetated areas adjacent to highways that are wide enough and dense enough to provide noise reduction benefits to residential areas near the highways. Where feasible and appropriate, pursue such approaches in lieu of noise walls	Narrow bands of trees are ineffective as noise barriers and only provide psychological benefit. For a vegetated area to have a significant impact on noise, it must be dense enough so that it cannot be seen through and wide enough to provide a significant benefit. Staff agrees with EQAC's recommendation to preserve and plant trees where possible adjacent to highways, generally in addition to, rather than instead of, more traditional structural barriers.	EQAC supports retention and planting of noninvasive vegetation.	In process.
6. Review all airport and highway studies that require Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for consistency with county policies addressing transportation-related noise and mitigation.	Staff concurs with this recommendation and is addressing it on a continuing basis as NEPA-related documents are issued.	EQAC supports the staff in reviewing NEPA-related documents as they are issued.	In process.

VIII-2. LIGHT POLLUTION

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors ensure that the Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Park Authority fully comply with the new Ordinance. EQAC further strongly recommends that the Board of Supervisors appoint a task force to determine appropriate standards and technology for lighting of athletic fields countywide.</p>	<p>Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is compliant with the new Ordinance. In addition, as lighting fixtures are replaced for maintenance purposes, FCPS is changing the fixtures to be in compliance.</p> <p>The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) ensures that all new and replacement lighting is in compliance with the new Ordinance as well as the recommendations of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. FCPA has contracted with a technical lighting consultant to prepare a report recommending specific products and applications for recreation lighting that are efficient and compatible with community needs.</p> <p>FCPA feels that a new task force would be redundant to ongoing efforts.</p>	<p>The new Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, while excellent in most respects, has one major deficiency. At the time of adoption, good standards for glare (as opposed to illumination on the ground) did not exist and were not included in the Ordinance. Neither the FCPA or FCPS respondents clearly understand this distinction, but simply assert that the Ordinance is being followed.</p> <p>The study to which the FCPA response refers has been challenged on both procedural and technical grounds. Until its credibility can be assessed, it cannot be regarded as an adequate basis for further field lighting projects. Thus, the recommendation to the BOS that the BOS (not the FCPA or the FCPS) appoint a task force to determine and develop appropriate standards and technology for the lighting of athletic fields (and perhaps certain industrial and commercial facilities) countywide has not been addressed and is reiterated on an urgent basis.</p>	<p>No.</p>

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
2. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct that exterior lighting fixtures installed on Fairfax County facilities and properties be consistent with the new Ordinance. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct that all older lighting fixtures under County control that do not meet the above standards be replaced on a phased basis.	All new exterior lighting fixtures installed on Fairfax County facilities and properties are required to, and will adhere to, the new Ordinance. The retrofitting of the 500 to 600 older exterior lighting fixtures located at county facilities is not being pursued at this time. There are no funds available for the initial conversion of these existing light fixtures. Furthermore, some of the fixtures would need to be increased to a higher wattage in order to meet current lighting standards. No funds exist for the higher annual operation and maintenance costs for the increased intensity required.	EQAC reiterates the recommendation, pointing out that the recommendation calls for a phased replacement. Estimates are that the cost of conversion will be repaid by lower O&M costs within a three to five year period.	Yes for new fixtures, but not for existing fixtures.
3. EQAC recommends that the BOS work with VDOT and Virginia elected officials to eliminate unnecessary roadway lighting and to achieve replacement of existing poorly designed fixtures.	All new future roadway projects for the roadway lighting will use the same type of fixtures as specified in the new ordinance. It is not feasible to replace all existing old fixtures with new fixtures. However, it is VDOT's intention to replace the old fixture with a new fixture on an as needed basis.	Follow-up conversations with VDOT have not been productive in terms of initiating a dialogue about how and when these problems may be addressed. The BOS is again urged to use its direct influence on VDOT to promote a reasonable dialog on these issues.	No.

Light Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
4. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the recently enacted Outdoor Lighting Ordinance to determine any areas in which enhancements and modifications may be needed.	The new ordinance became effective on June 17, 2003. Overall, it is believed that the new standards are working well and will be effective in the reduction of glare. Staff's current monitoring activities should continue and adjustments to the outdoor lighting standards be considered as new information becomes known and additional projects are approved and built under the current standards.	This recommendation is being very satisfactorily addressed by the staff team responsible for drafting the Ordinance.	In process.
5. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors support county staff efforts to develop any additional technical information that may be needed for the education of architects, contractors, electricians, and builders as to what the county permits and does not permit in the field of illumination and the technology available for compliant installation.	A booklet entitled "A Guide to Fairfax County's Lighting Standards" was prepared by staff and distributed in September 2003. This booklet provides an overview of the outdoor lighting standards that became effective on June 17, 2003. In addition, staff has assisted many builders, architects, and engineers in the design of outdoor lighting for both new developments and redevelopment of existing sites.	This recommendation continues to be very satisfactorily addressed by the staff team responsible for drafting the Ordinance.	Yes.

VIII-3. VISUAL POLLUTION AND URBAN BLIGHT

Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC strongly recommends that the lack of an explicit provision in Article 12-300 of the present Ordinance for assessment of civil penalties be rectified at the earliest opportunity. Civil penalty provisions need to be clear for sign violations, with an option to pursue such violations as a criminal misdemeanor if repeat offenses occur.</p>	<p>Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-2209 specifically provides that designation of a specific zoning violation for a civil penalty shall be in lieu of criminal sanctions, except for a violation resulting in injury to persons, and precludes prosecution of that specified violation as a misdemeanor in a criminal case. The BOS is considering entering into an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner which would permit the County to enforce the provisions of Va. Code Ann. § 33.1-373, which prohibits advertising in the public rights-of-way.</p>	<p>Civil penalties need to be clearly stated in the same section of the Ordinance as the rules governing placement of signs, even though other sections of the Ordinance may cover these. The EQAC recommendations have been revised so that there is now no conflict with the state law prohibiting both civil penalties and criminal sanctions.</p> <p>It is encouraging that the BOS is considering establishing an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner that would permit the County to enforce the provisions of State law regarding signage unlawfully placed in the right-of-way. EQAC encourages this approach.</p>	<p>No.</p>

Visual Pollution Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
2. EQAC strongly urges the BOS to again consider the Fairfax County Sign Task Force report and either implement its findings or reconstitute the Task Force to find alternatives that are more palatable to the Board and the citizens of the County.	The Virginia General Assembly did adopt an amendment to Virginia Code as recommended by the Task Force that provides authority for Fairfax County to enter into an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner to enforce Virginia Code that prohibits advertising within the limits of any highway. However, this enforcement agreement will not apply to political signs and special event signs that may remain in the right-of-way for no more than three days after the election or special event. The staff of the Zoning Enforcement Branch of the Department of Planning and Zoning is in the process of formulating a proposed approach for implementing an enforcement program should the BOS decide to enter into such an agreement.	EQAC reiterates its support of the general premises underpinning the Task Force recommendations.	Partial.
3. EQAC support the general premise underpinning each of the Task Force's recommendations, but believes that before the County seeks any amendments to the Code and introduces new programs of its own, a study should be performed to determine the impact on existing programs, staffing, and budget, and that a cost benefit analysis be performed to determine the extent to which the proposed amendments or additions would contribute to reducing visual pollution in a cost-effective manner.	As part of the development of this sign enforcement program, staff will identify the impacts on existing programs, staffing, and budgetary considerations, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. A cost benefit analysis for a sign removal program may be conducted upon the conclusion of the first year of the program.	EQAC reiterates its recommendation.	In process.